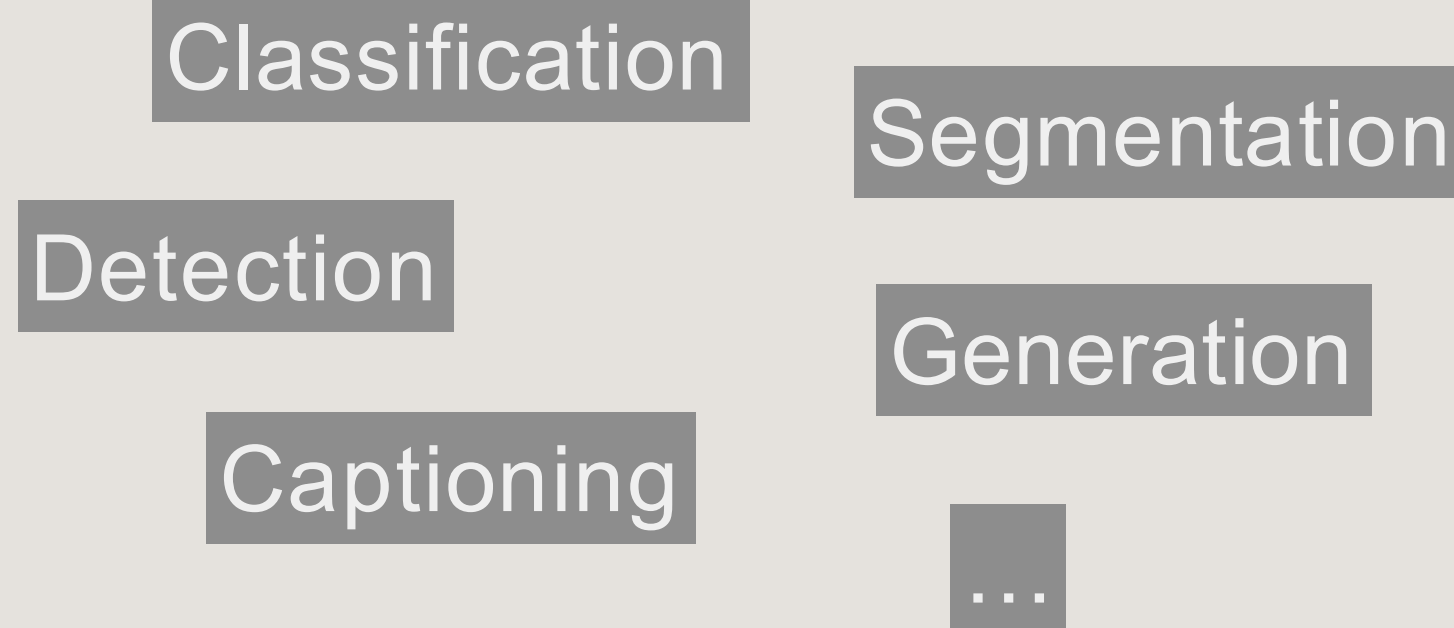


Embodied Reasoning Through Planning with Language and Vision Foundation Models

Datasets



Tasks



Internet AI



Embodied AI

Motivation

For a robot to intelligently act in the world it needs:

- Decompose long-horizon tasks into a sequence of simpler tasks.
- Have a large repertoire of these simpler tasks and ability to learn these online.
- Perceptual feedback to recognize and change plans when conditions change or actions fail.
- World knowledge so we (lazy humans) can spend as little effort as possible embedding prior knowledge into the model.
- Perform these tasks in real-time, low latency needed.



Mixing language and robotics: Large Language Models (LLMs)

- Contain rich internalized knowledge about the world.
- Can interpret natural language instructions, code, mathematics...
- Can handle large sequences of complex data.
- Perform high-level reasoning about a multitude of diverse topics.
- Can even help me make this presentation.

Explaining a joke

Prompt

Explain this joke:

Joke: Did you see that Google just hired an eloquent whale for their TPU team? It showed them how to communicate between two different pods!

Model Response

Prediction: TPUs are a type of computer chip that Google uses for deep learning. A "pod" is a group of TPUs. A "pod" is also a group of whales. The joke is that the whale is able to communicate between two groups of whales, but the speaker is pretending that the whale is able to communicate between two groups of TPUs.

Can LLMs serve as reasoning models that combine multiple sources of feedback and become interactive problem solvers for embodied tasks?

Mixing language and robotics: Large Language Models (LLMs)

Challenges:

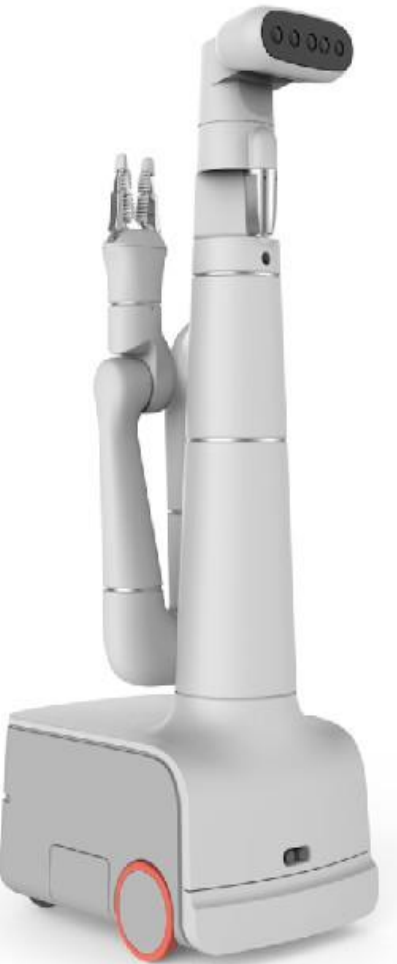
1. Robot Language: Our robots can only do a fixed number of commands and need the problem broken down in actionable steps. This is not what LLMs have seen.

I spilled my drink, can you help?

2. Grounding: LLMs have not directly “experienced” the physical world.

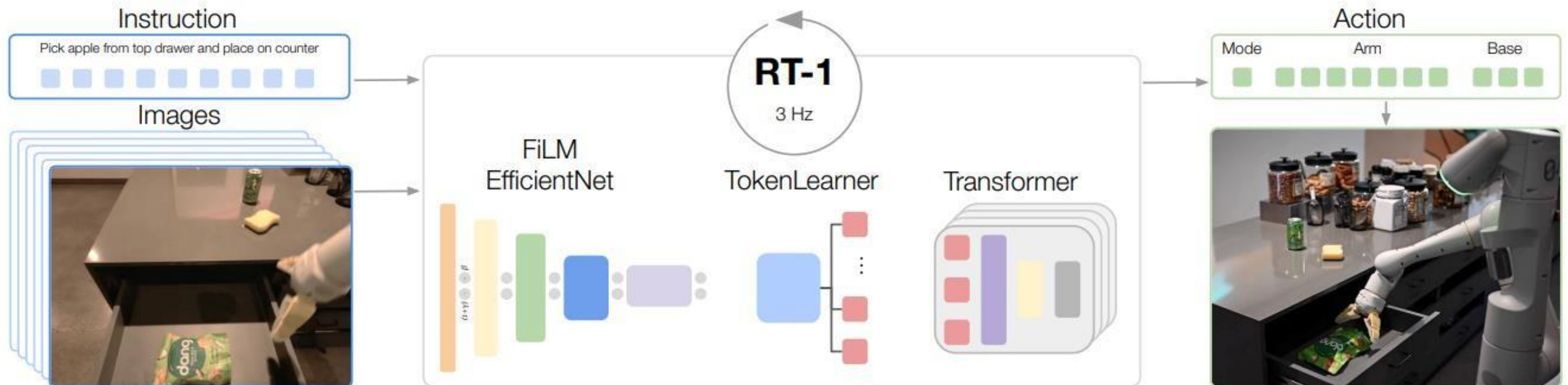
I’m feeling tired, can you make me a pumpkin spiced latte?

3. Safety, alignment, interpretability...



RT-1: Robotics Transformer for Real-World Control at Scale

- Behavior Cloning:
 - Input: Observations (Camera, Prior-perception...) and Task Description
 - Output: Action (e.g. timesteps x joint_states)
- Training Data:
 - Human demonstrations (Language, Observation, Action)-pairs as Supervision



Language Conditioned Robot Behavior

- Naive language conditioned imitation learning works on short horizon tasks but struggles with long-horizon tasks and complex instructions.
- Fail to generalize to out of distribution tasks not seen during training.



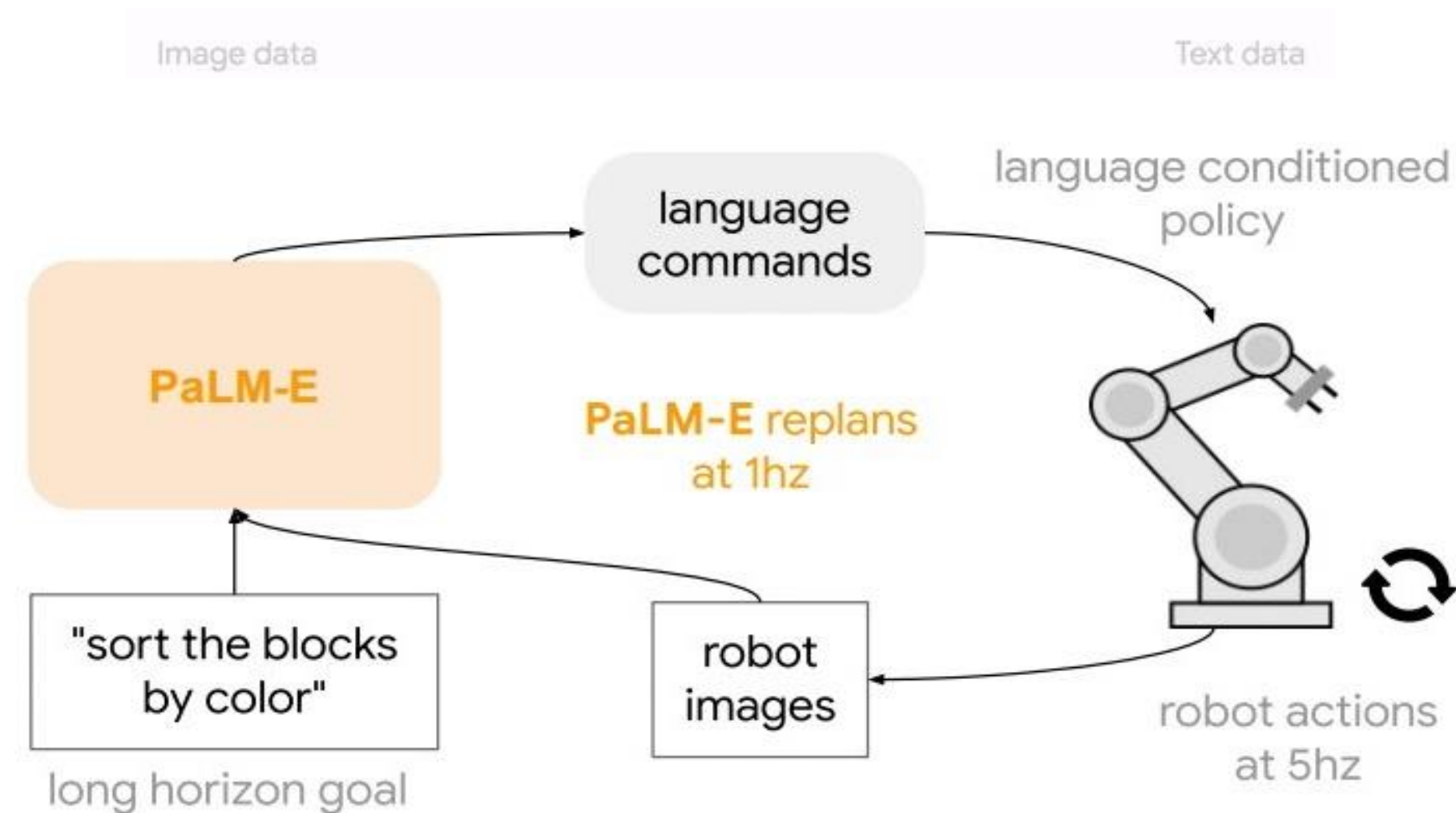
“I just worked out, can you bring me a snack and a drink to recover?”

“I’m feeling tired, can you bring me the key to happiness?”



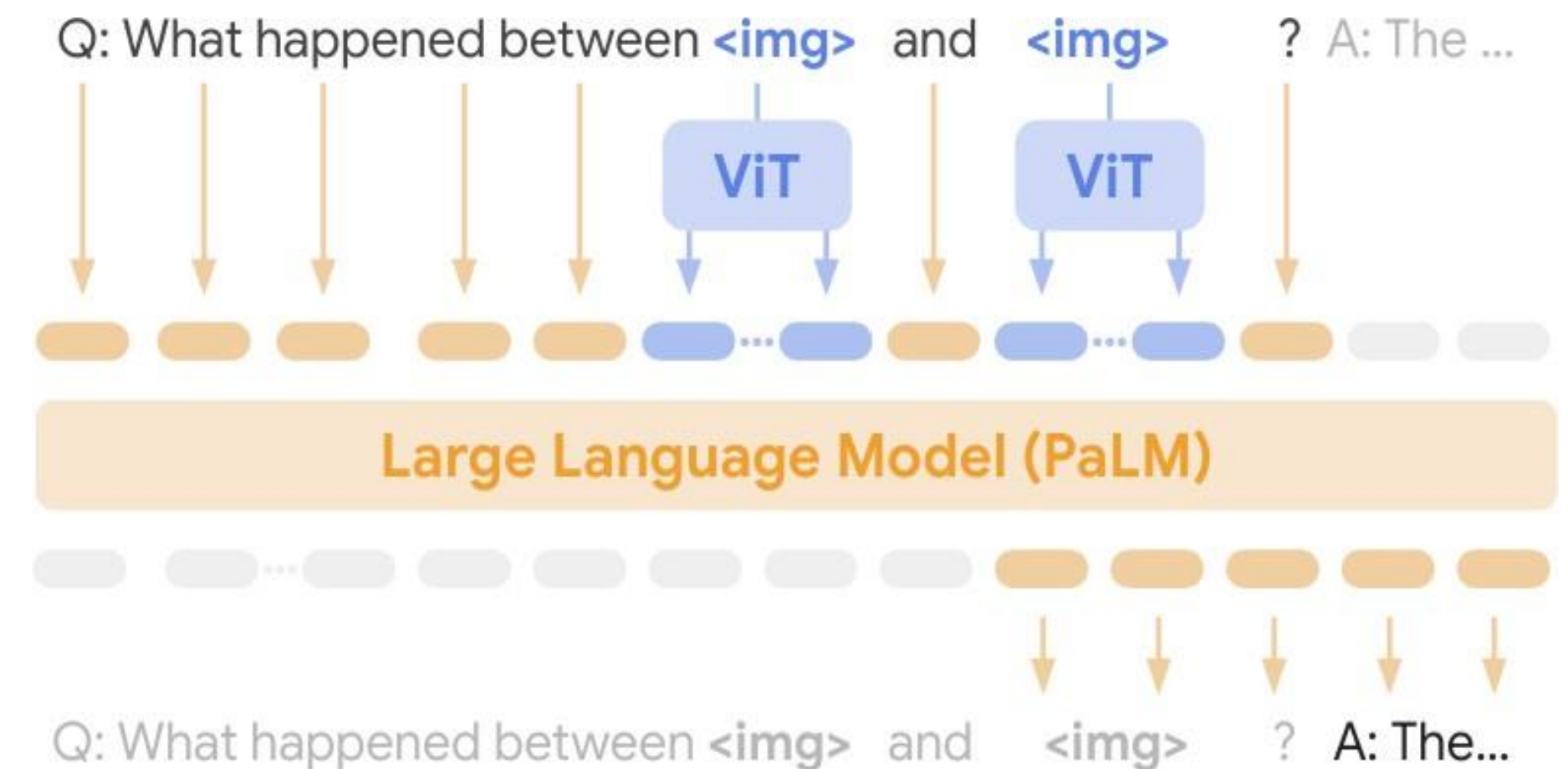
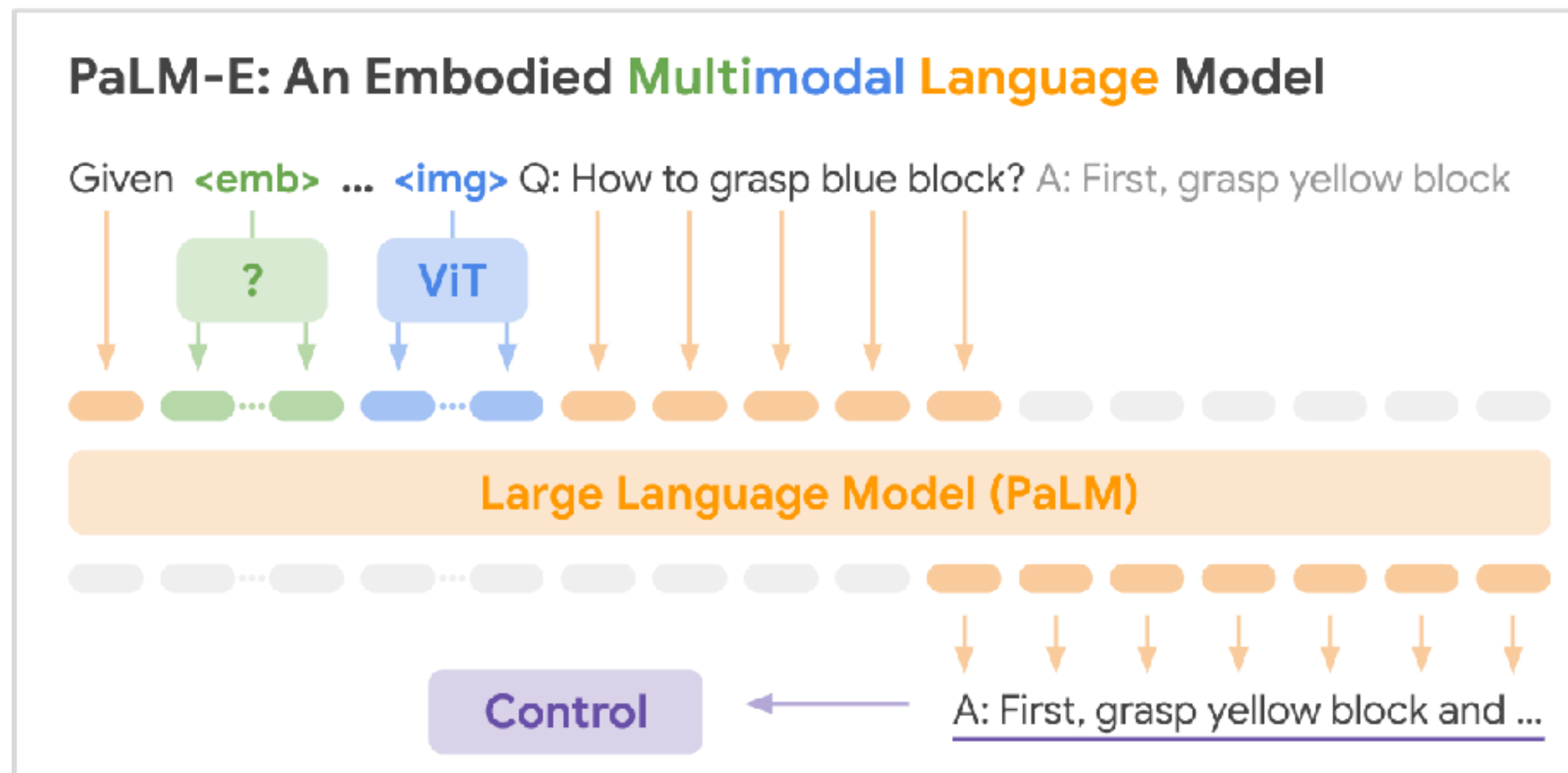
Fails to resolve to grab a beer due to a lack of semantic and world knowledge.

PaLM-E: An Embodied Multimodal Language Model



Danny Driess, Fei Xia, Mehdi S. M. Sajjadi, Corey Lynch, Aakanksha Chowdhery, Brian Ichter, Ayzaan Wahid, Jonathan Tompson, Quan Vuong, Tianhe Yu, Wenlong Huang, Yevgen Chebotar, Pierre Sermanet, Daniel Duckworth, Sergey Levine, Vincent Vanhoucke, Karol Hausman, Marc Toussaint, Klaus Greff, Andy Zeng, Igor Mordatch, Pete Florence

Architecture of PaLM-E

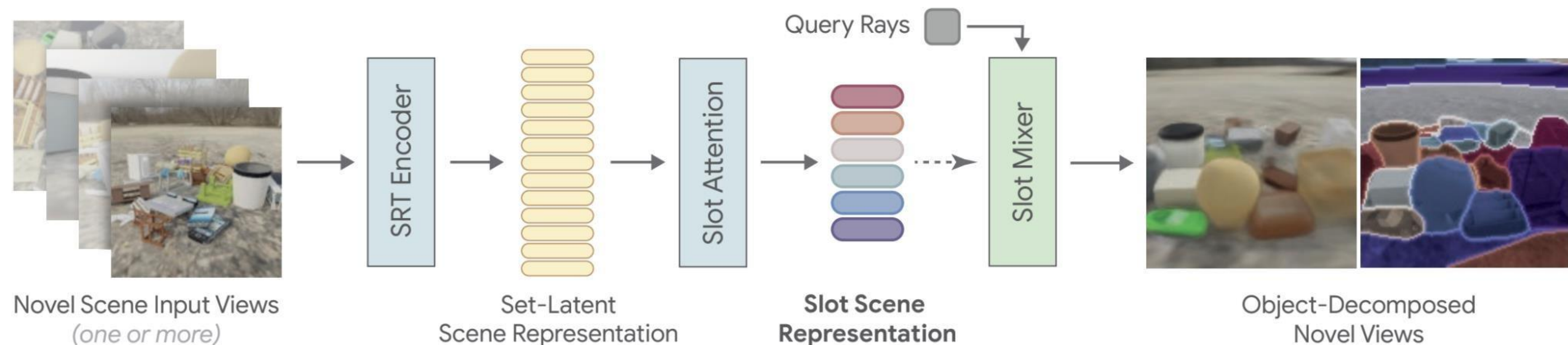


Arbitrary interleaving

- Original token embedding space of LLM:
 $k \times W$ (k is the dim of embedding, W is the vocabulary)
 $W = 256000$
- How to *enable multi-modal inputs*?
 - *Project inputs into LLM token embedding space*

Approaches to Encoding Multi-Modal Features

- How to project image inputs into LLM embedding space? Choices:
 - State Estimation Vectors
 - ViT pretrained on image-classification
 - Object-centric ViT (mask + ViT)
 - Object Scene Representation Transformer (OSRT)



“Object Scene Representation Transformer” NeurIPS 2022

Approaches to Encoding Multi-Modal Features

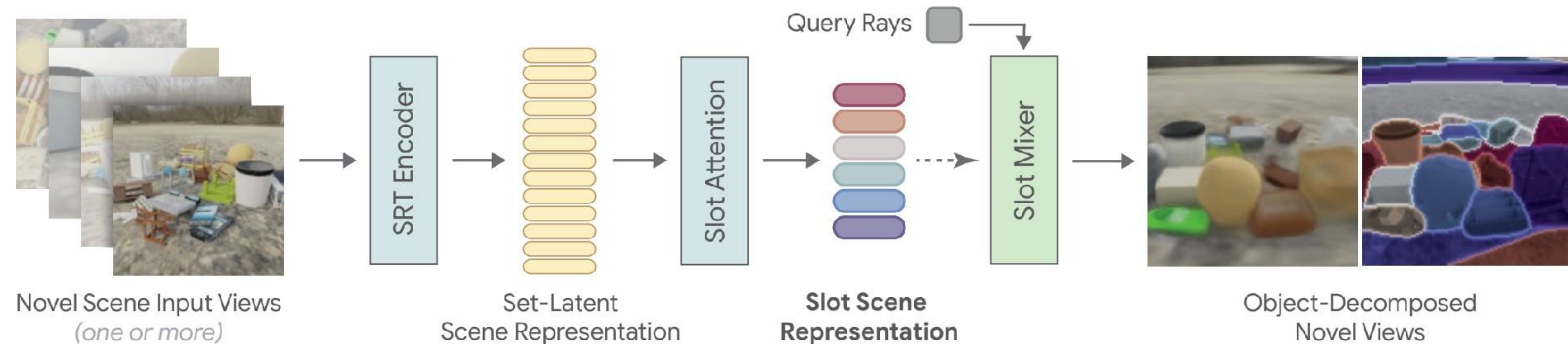
State Estimation Vectors

- State vectors from a robot or a state estimate for objects.
- Could be pose, color, size...
- An MLP layer projects these into one token (same dimensionality as text).
- Compact descriptions of the scene.

ViT

- Transformer architecture mapping an image into multiple token embeddings or patches.
- These embeddings are not the same dimensionality as the language tokens.
- For each embedding, learn a transformation that projects it to the language dimensionality.

Scene Representation: Object Scene Representation Transformer



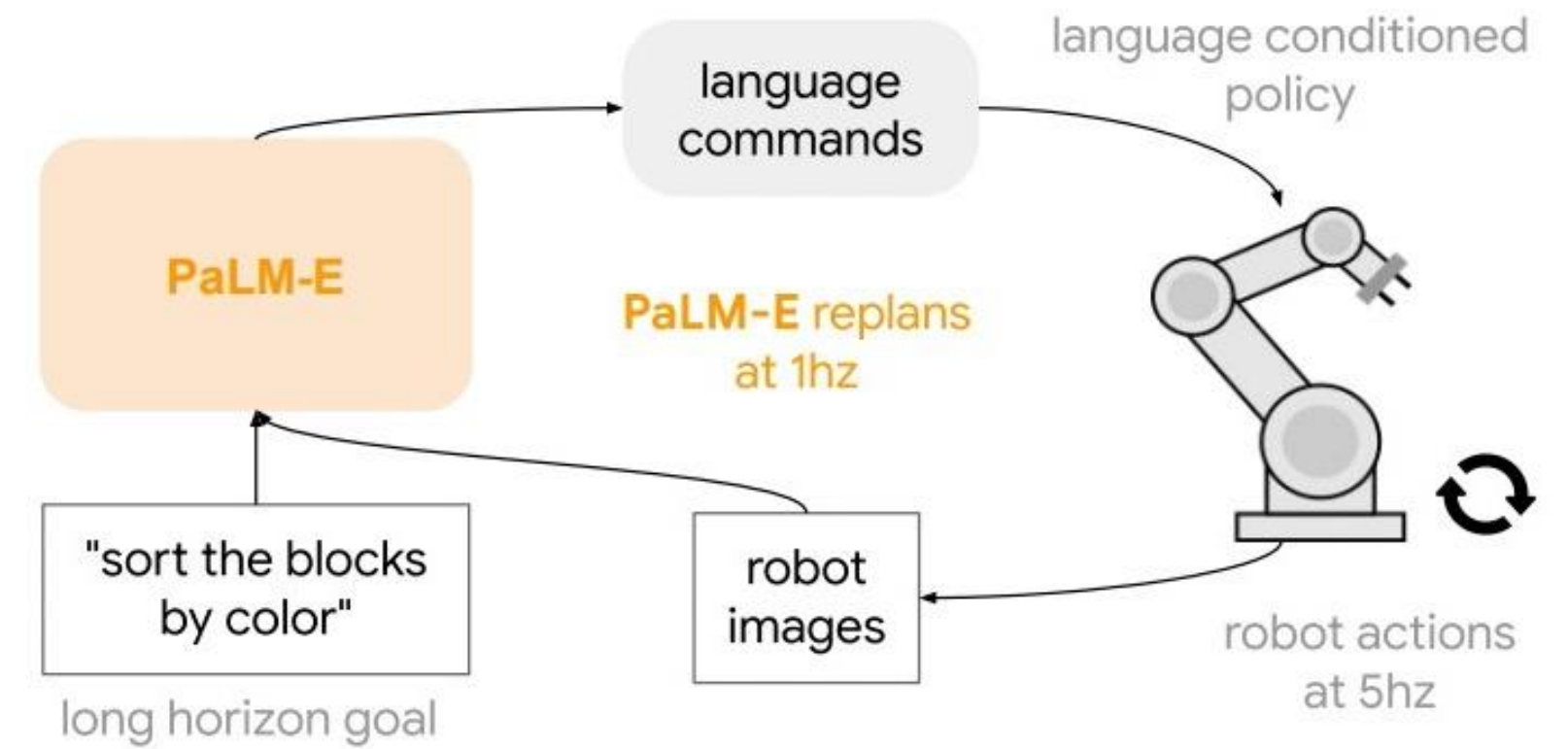
- Takes multiple 2D views.
- Reconstructs a latent 3D space.
- Decomposes the space into objects.
- Outputs object tokens with 3D structure.

- Unsupervised learning of 3D neural scene representations.
- Ideal for spatial reasoning but more expensive to train.

$$o_j = \bar{\phi}_{\text{OSRT}}(I_{1:v})_j \in \mathbb{R}^{\bar{k}}, \quad x_{1:m}^j = \psi(\bar{\phi}_{\text{OSRT}}(I_{1:v})_j) \text{ with an MLP } \psi.$$

Training PaLM-E

- Training:
 - Prefix-Decoder-only LLM
 - Prefix: $w_{1:n}$ (image, states, queries)
 - Cross-entropy loss over the next-token prediction on text outputs: $w_{n+1:L}$



$$p(w_{n+1:L} | w_{1:n}) = \prod_{l=n+1}^L p_{\text{LM}}(w_l | w_{1:l-1}).$$

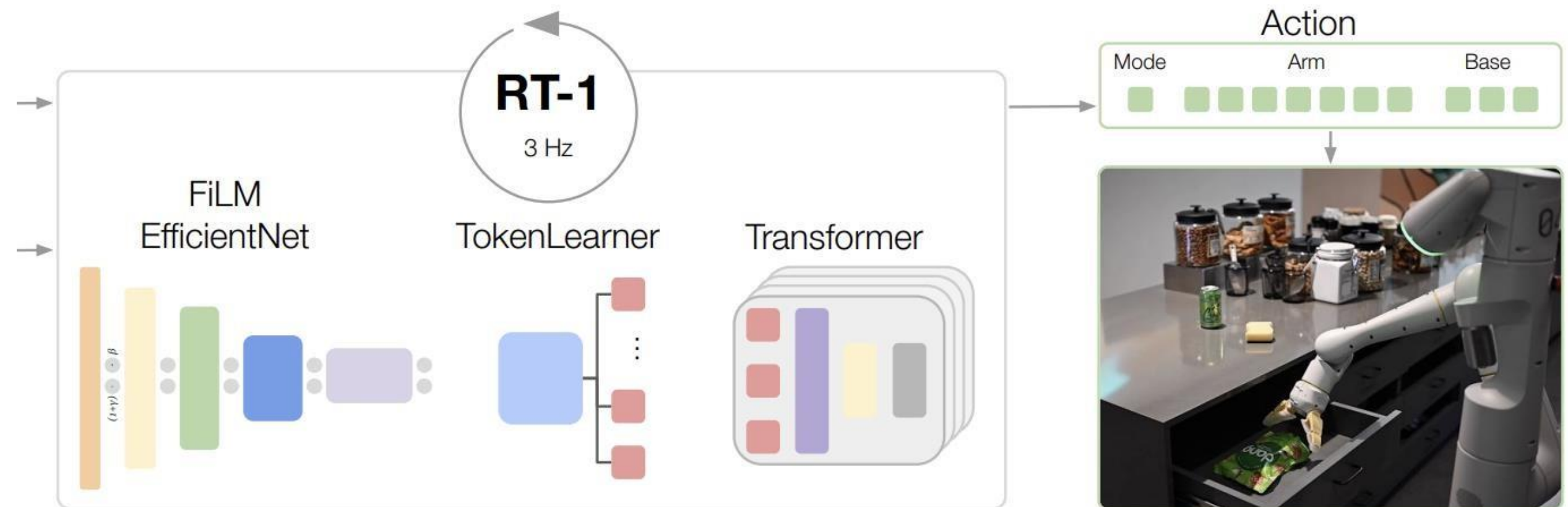
RT-1 + PaLM-E

- Output: languages describing how to complete the task
- Use language guided low-level control to control the robots (RT-1)
 - Palm-e outputs language guidance
 - RT-1 map the language to low-level actions

Tabletop Manipulation



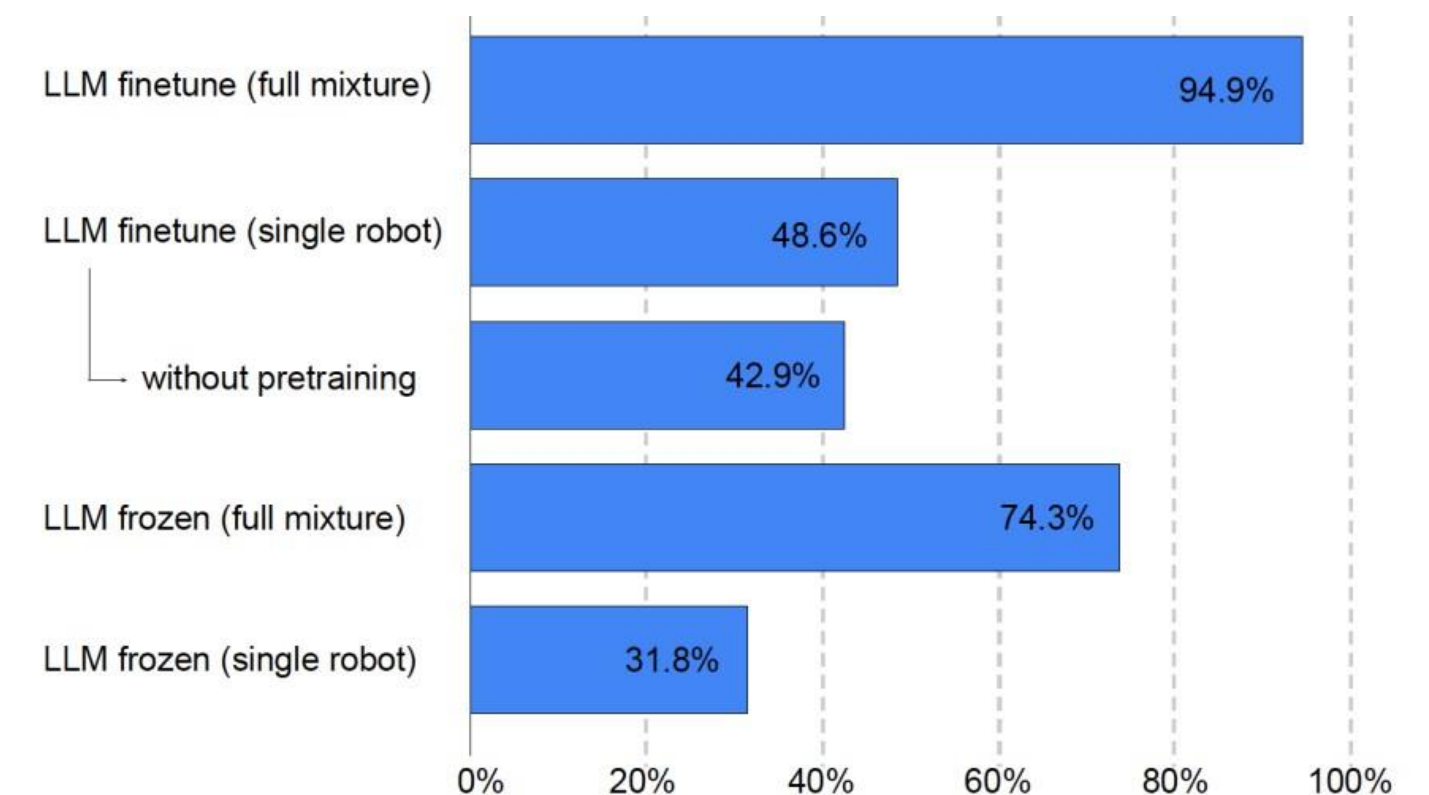
Given **** Task: Sort colors into corners.
Step 1. Push the green star to the bottom left.
Step 2. Push the green circle to the green star.



Dataset and Training

- Training:
 - LLM + Visual Encoder
 - Different model-freezing strategies: (LLM, visual encoder, projector)
 - Fully fine-tuning
 - Freeze LLM, fine-tune encoder and projector only
 - Co-training across tasks:
 - Mixture of datasets of different tasks

Dataset in full mixture	Sampling frequency	%
Webli (Chen et al., 2022)	100	52.4
VQ ² A (Changpinyo et al., 2022)	25	13.1
VQG (Changpinyo et al., 2022)	10	5.2
CC3M (Sharma et al., 2018)	25	13.1
Object Aware (Piergiovanni et al., 2022)	10	5.2
OKVQA (Marino et al., 2019)	1	0.5
VQAv2 (Goyal et al., 2017)	1	0.5
COCO (Chen et al., 2015)	1	0.5
Wikipedia text	1	0.5
(robot) Mobile Manipulator, real	6	3.1
(robot) Language Table (Lynch et al., 2022), sim and real	8	4.2
(robot) TAMP, sim	3	1.6

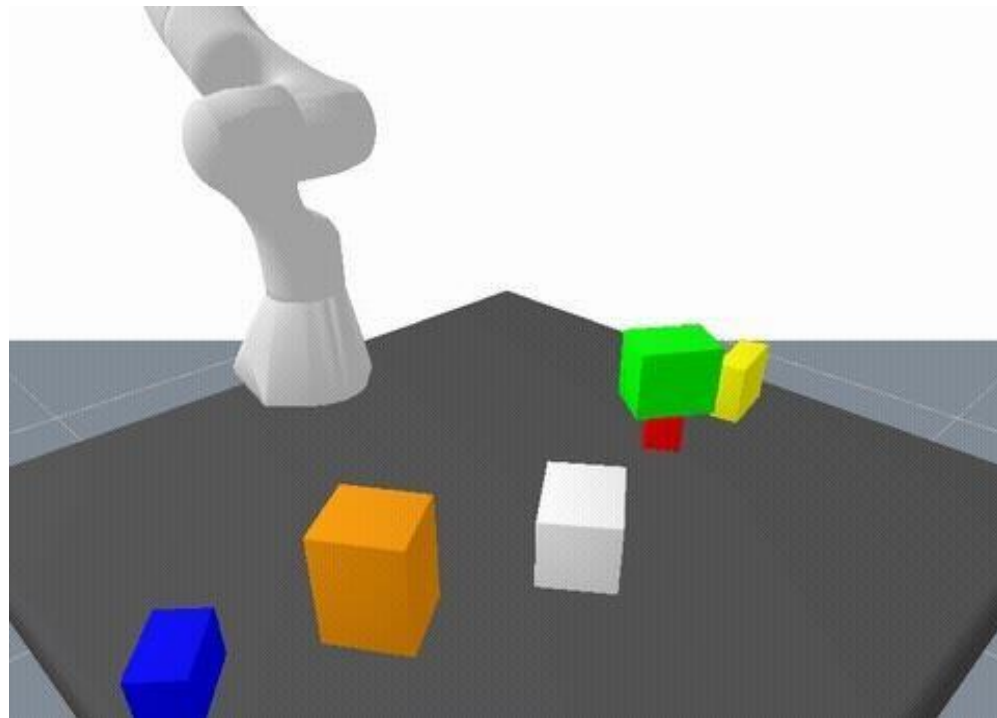


Embodied data: 8.9%

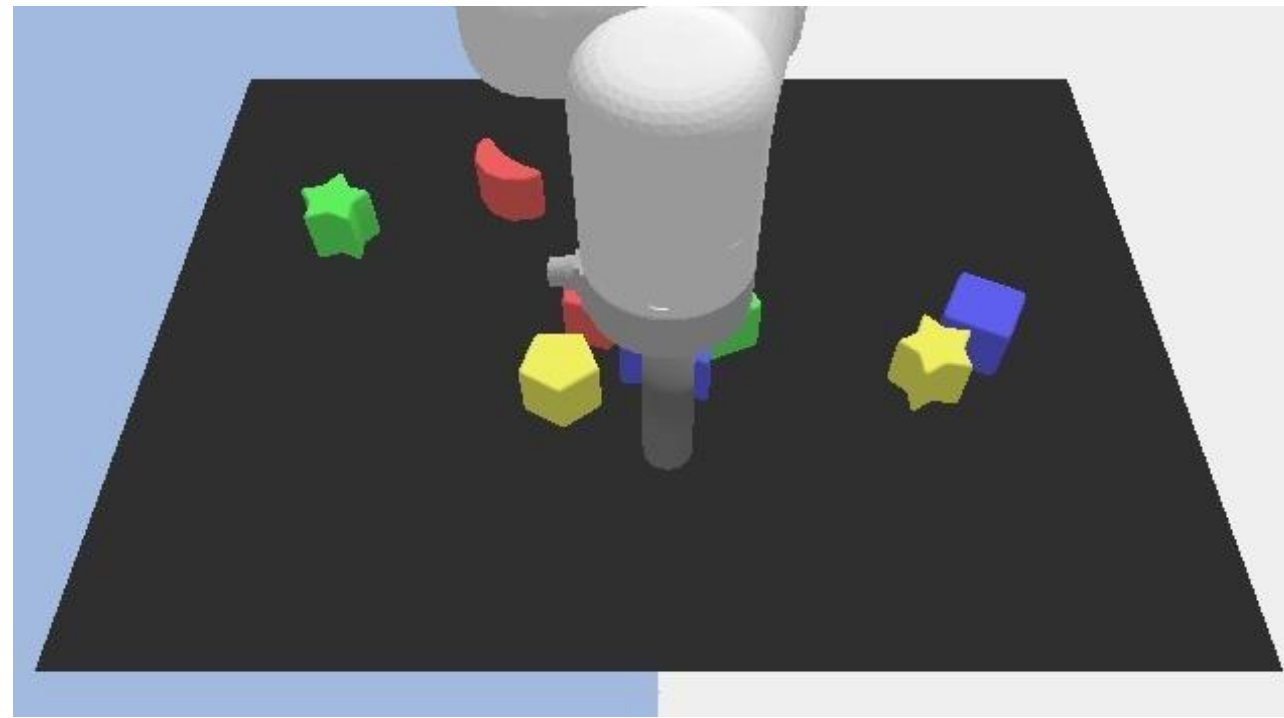
Experiments and Results

Consists of diverse robotic mobile manipulation tasks across

Robot Environments



Task and Motion
Planning (TAMP)

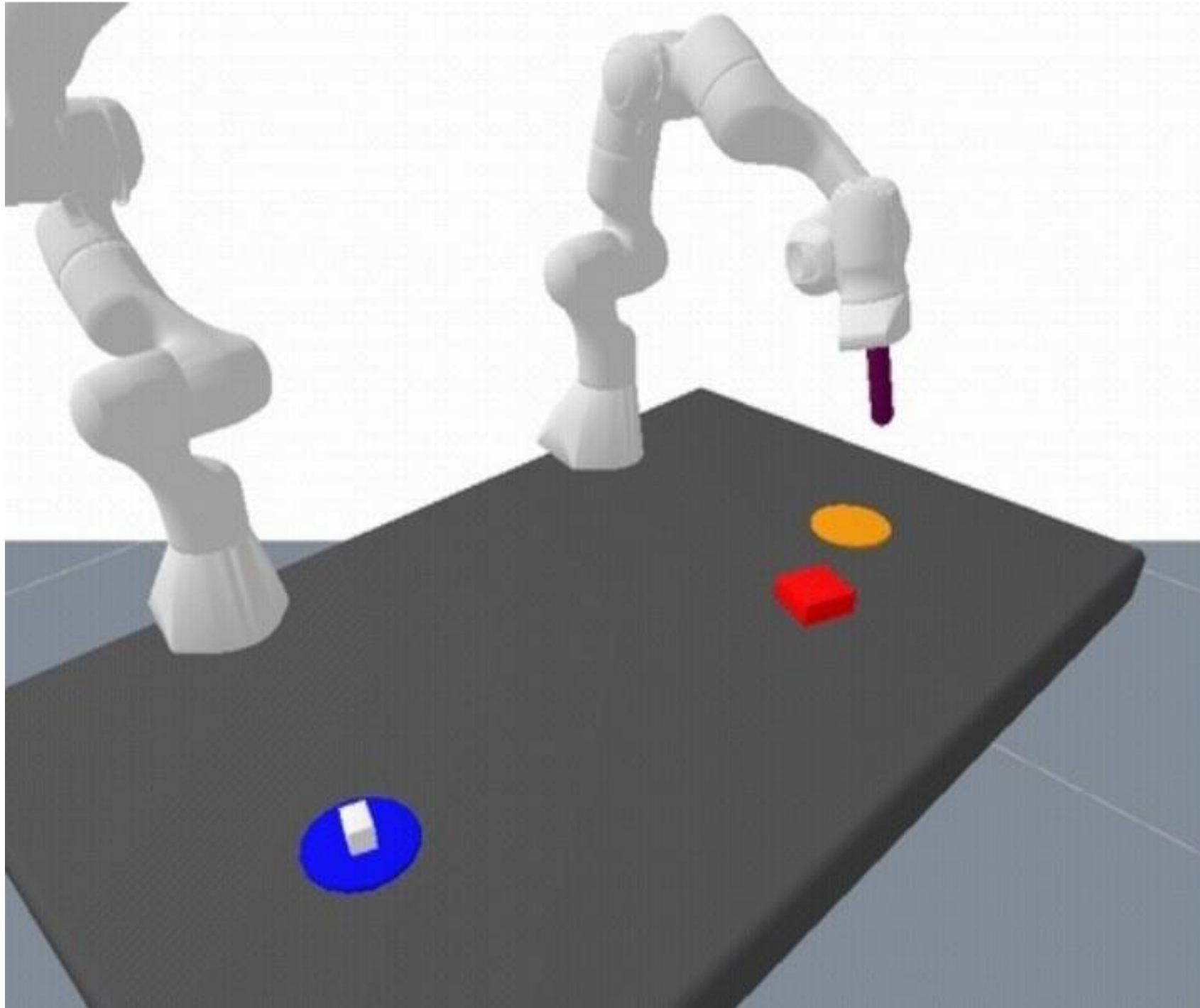


Language Table



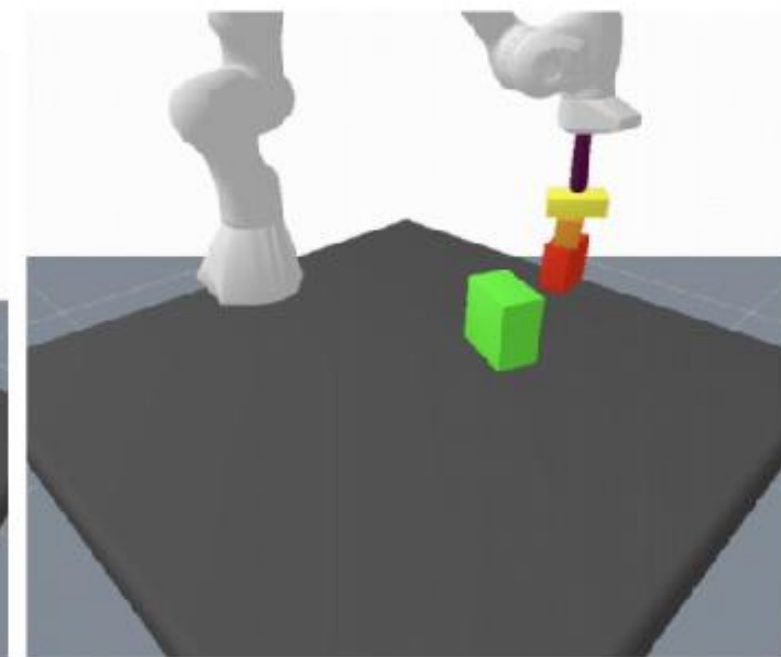
Mobile manipulation (SayCan)

PaLM-E on TAMP-like tasks



Given **img**. Q: How to stack the white object on top of the red object?

A: First grasp the red object and place it on the table, then grasp the white object and place it on the red object.



Experiments and Results

Task and Motion Planning (TAMP) Environment

- Robot has to manipulate (grasp and stack) objects.
- Training scenes contain 3-5 cube-shaped objects of different sizes, colors and samples initial poses

VQA Tasks

- **q1: color of an object**
- **q2: object-table relation.**
Example prompt:
Given . Q: *Is the red object left, right, or center of the table?*
Target: A: *The red object is in the center of the table.*
- **q3: object-object relations.**
Example prompt:
Given . Q: *Is the yellow object below the blue object?*
Target: A: *No, the yellow object is not below the blue object.*
- **q4: plan feasibility.**
Example prompt:
Given . Q: *Is it possible to first grasp the blue object, place it on the yellow object, and then grasp the yellow object?*
Target: A: *No, this is not possible.*

Planning Tasks

- **p1: grasping.**
Example prompt:
Given . Q: *How to grasp the green object?*
Target: A: *First grasp the orange object and place it on the table, then grasp the green object.*
- **p2: stacking.**
Example prompt:
Given . Q: *How to stack the white object on top of the red object?*
Target: A: *First grasp the green object and place it on the table, then grasp the white object and place it on the red object.*

Experiments and Results

TAMP Env

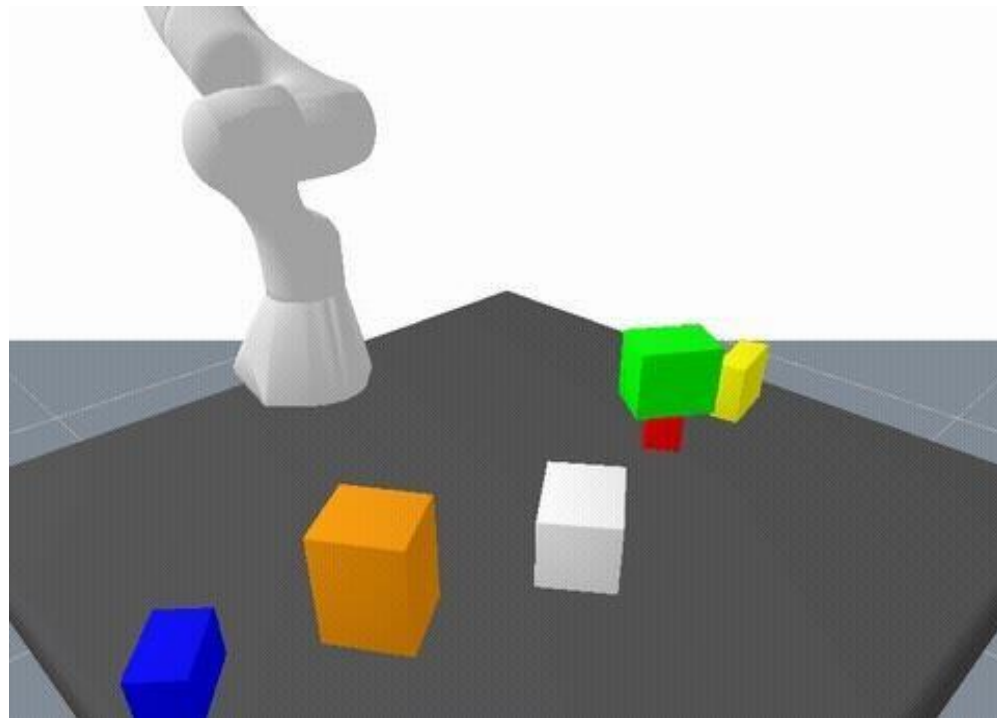
Goal: Compare different input configurations with respect to performance and data-efficiency

	Object- centric	LLM pre-train	Embodied VQA				Planning	
			q ₁	q ₂	q ₃	q ₄	p ₁	p ₂
SayCan (oracle afford.) (Ahn et al., 2022)		✓	-	-	-	-	38.7	33.3
PaLI (zero-shot) (Chen et al., 2022)		✓	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
<i>PaLM-E</i> (ours) w/ input enc:								
State	✓(GT)	✗	99.4	89.8	90.3	88.3	45.0	46.1
State	✓(GT)	✓	100.0	96.3	95.1	93.1	55.9	49.7
ViT + TL	✓(GT)	✓	34.7	54.6	74.6	91.6	24.0	14.7
ViT-4B single robot	✗	✓	-	45.9	78.4	92.2	30.6	32.9
ViT-4B full mixture	✗	✓	-	70.7	93.4	92.1	74.1	74.6
OSRT (no VQA)	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	71.9	75.1
OSRT	✓	✓	99.7	98.2	100.0	93.7	82.5	76.2

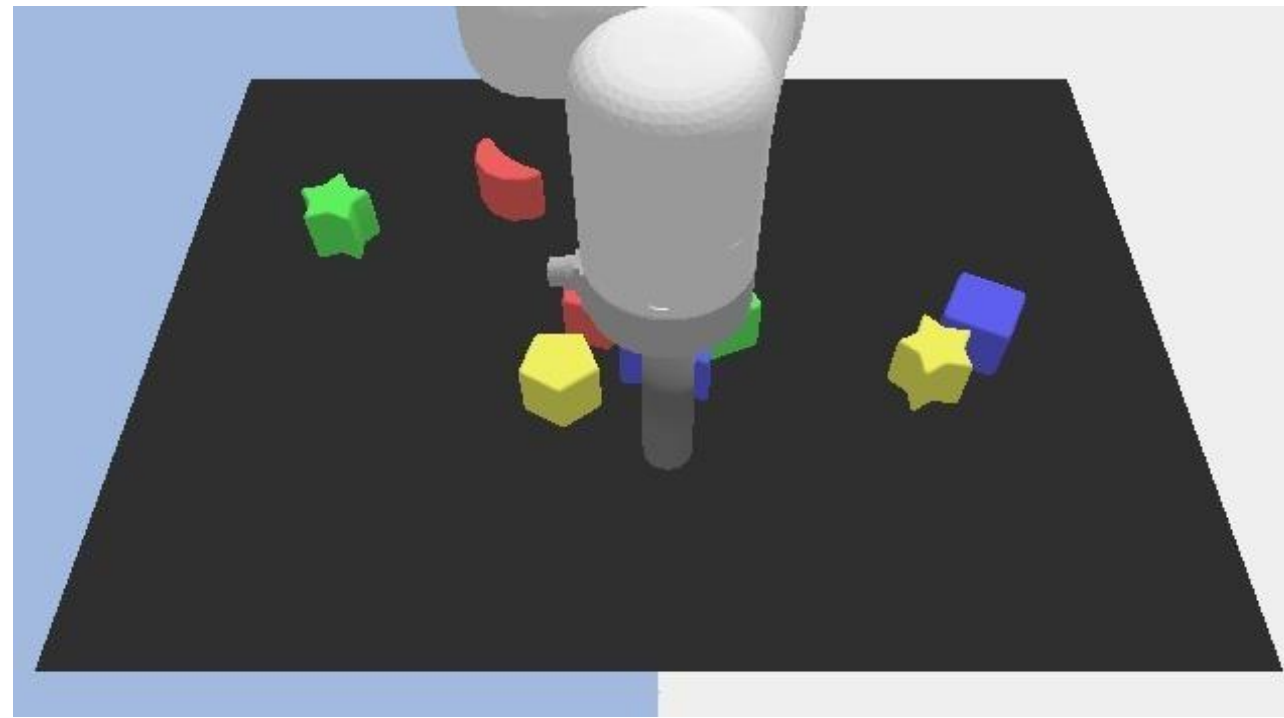
- Training on 1% of the TAMP dataset
- LLM is frozen, only the encoder and projector learn
- ViT variants: Effect of cross-domain transfer
- Using OSRT representation leads to best performance

Experiments and Results

Robot Environments



Task and Motion
Planning (TAMP)

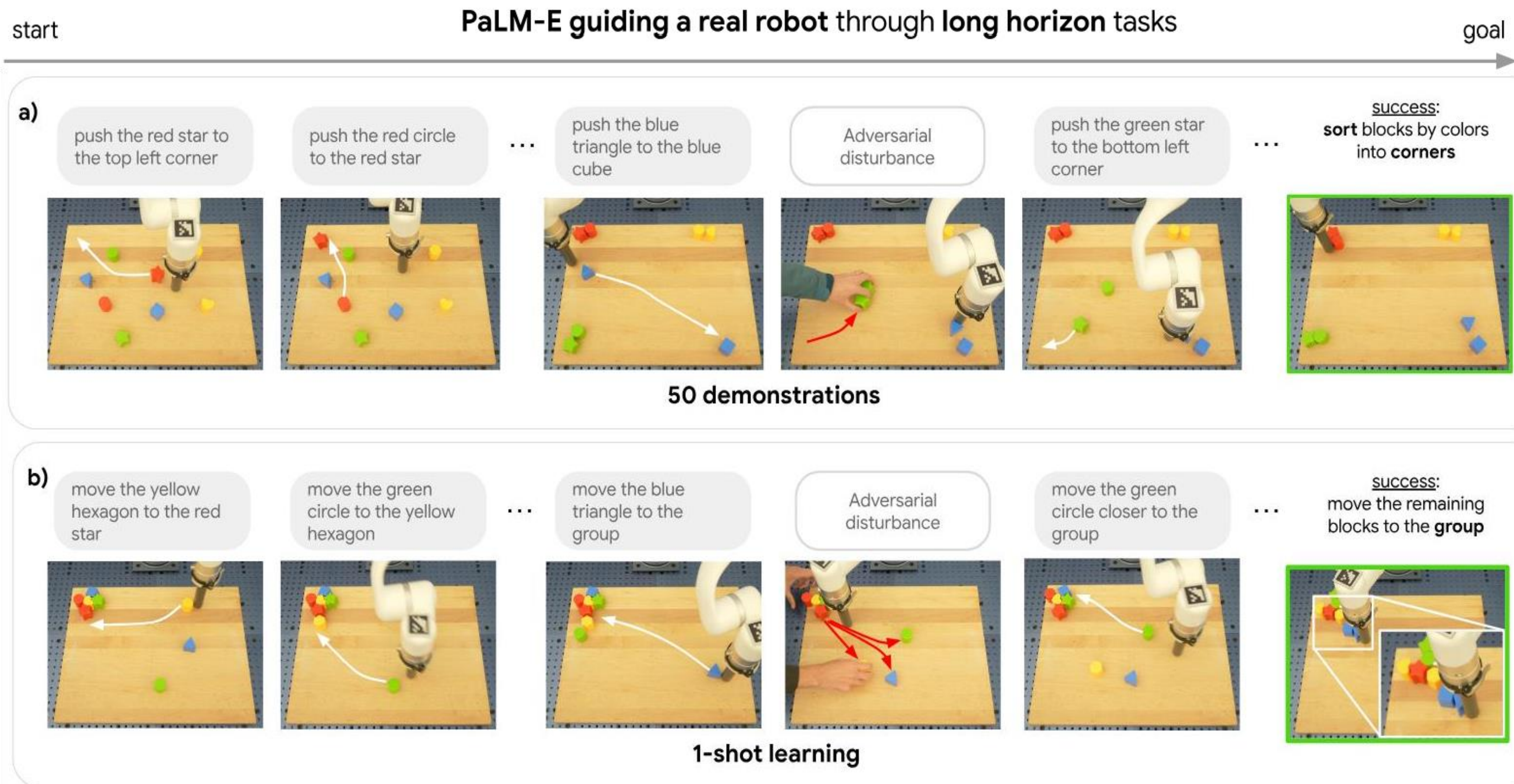


Language Table

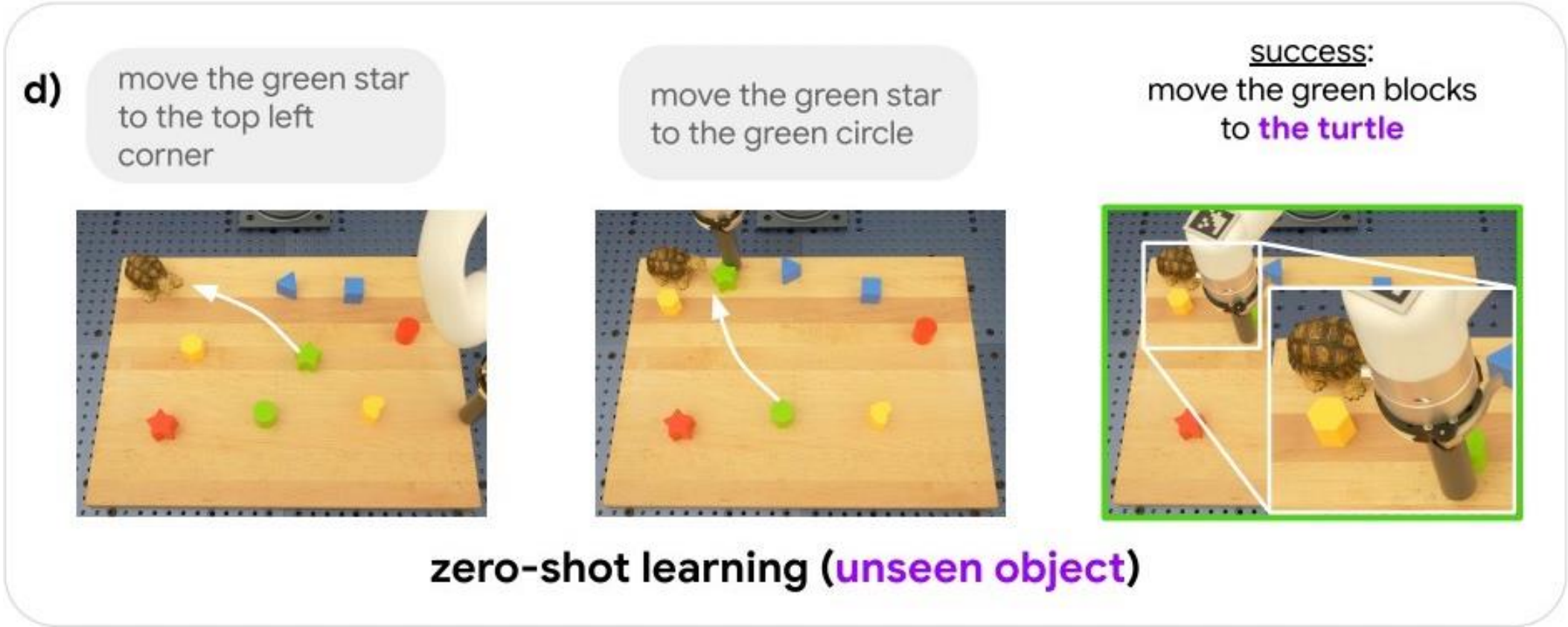


Mobile manipulation (SayCan)

Sample-efficient learning: Language Table Env



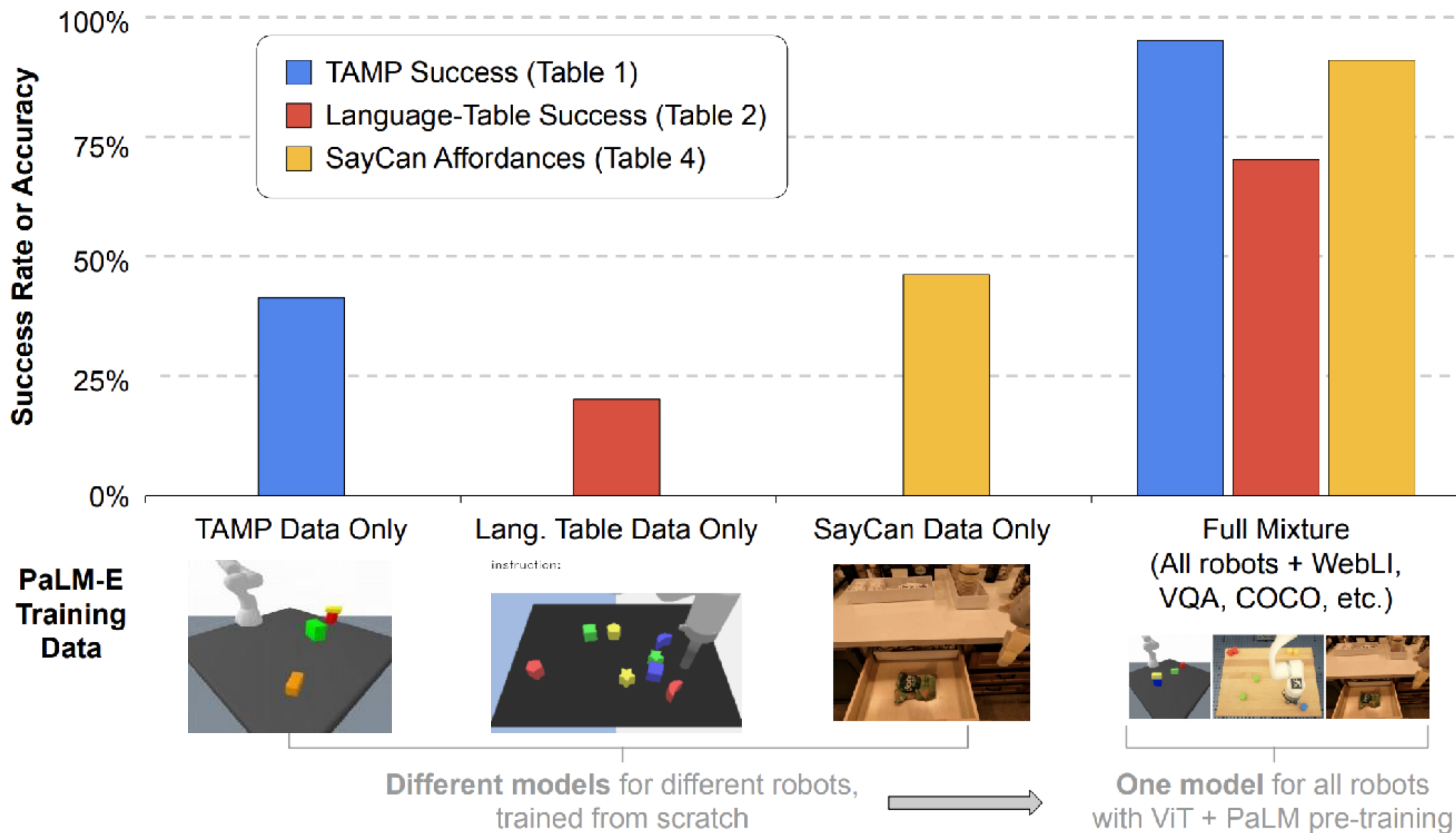
Sample-efficient learning: Language Table Env



Zero-shot Baselines						Task 1			Task 2			Task 3		
SayCan (oracle afford.) (Ahn et al., 2022)						0.0			-			-		
PaLI (Chen et al., 2022)						0.0			-			-		
PaLM-E-	trained on	from scratch	LLM+ViT pretrain	LLM frozen	Task finetune	# Demos								
						10	20	40	10	20	40	10	20	80
12B	Single robot	✓	✗	n/a	✓	20.0	30.0	50.0	2.5	6.3	2.5	11.3	16.9	28.3
12B	Full mixture	✗	✓	✓	✗	-	-	20.0	-	-	36.3	-	-	29.4
12B	Full mixture	✗	✓	✗	✗	-	-	80.0	-	-	57.5	-	-	50.0
12B	Full mixture	✗	✓	✗	✓	70.0	80.0	80.0	31.3	58.8	58.8	57.5	54.4	56.3
84B	Full mixture	✗	✓	✗	✗	-	-	90.0	-	-	53.8	-	-	64.4

Table 2: Results on planning tasks in the simulated environment from Lynch et al. (2022).

PaLM-E: Positive Transfer



Highlight: Zero-shot Multimodal Chain-of-Thought



Given ****.

Q: In this photo, are there more cats, or more dogs?

A: Let's think step by step.
There are 2 dogs and 2 cats.

2 and 2 are equal.

Therefore there are equal number of cats and dogs.



Given ****.

Q: Can I go down this street on a bicycle, yes or no? A: Let's think step by step.

1. do not enter.
2. except bicycles.
3. do not entry except bicycles.
4. yes.



I see (image omitted). Description: A cow sitting on a rug. Joke: Why is the cow sitting on a rug? Because it wants to be a cow-ch! ... I see ****. Description: a donkey is carrying a dog, cat, and rooster. Joke: what do you call a donkey with a rooster on his back. A rooster booster.



Given ****.

Q: I am getting just two custom pizza for me and my friend. How much should I pay in total? A: Let's think step by step.

- 1st step: 2 custom pizzas.
- 2nd step: 2 x \$9.99.
- 3rd step: \$19.98.

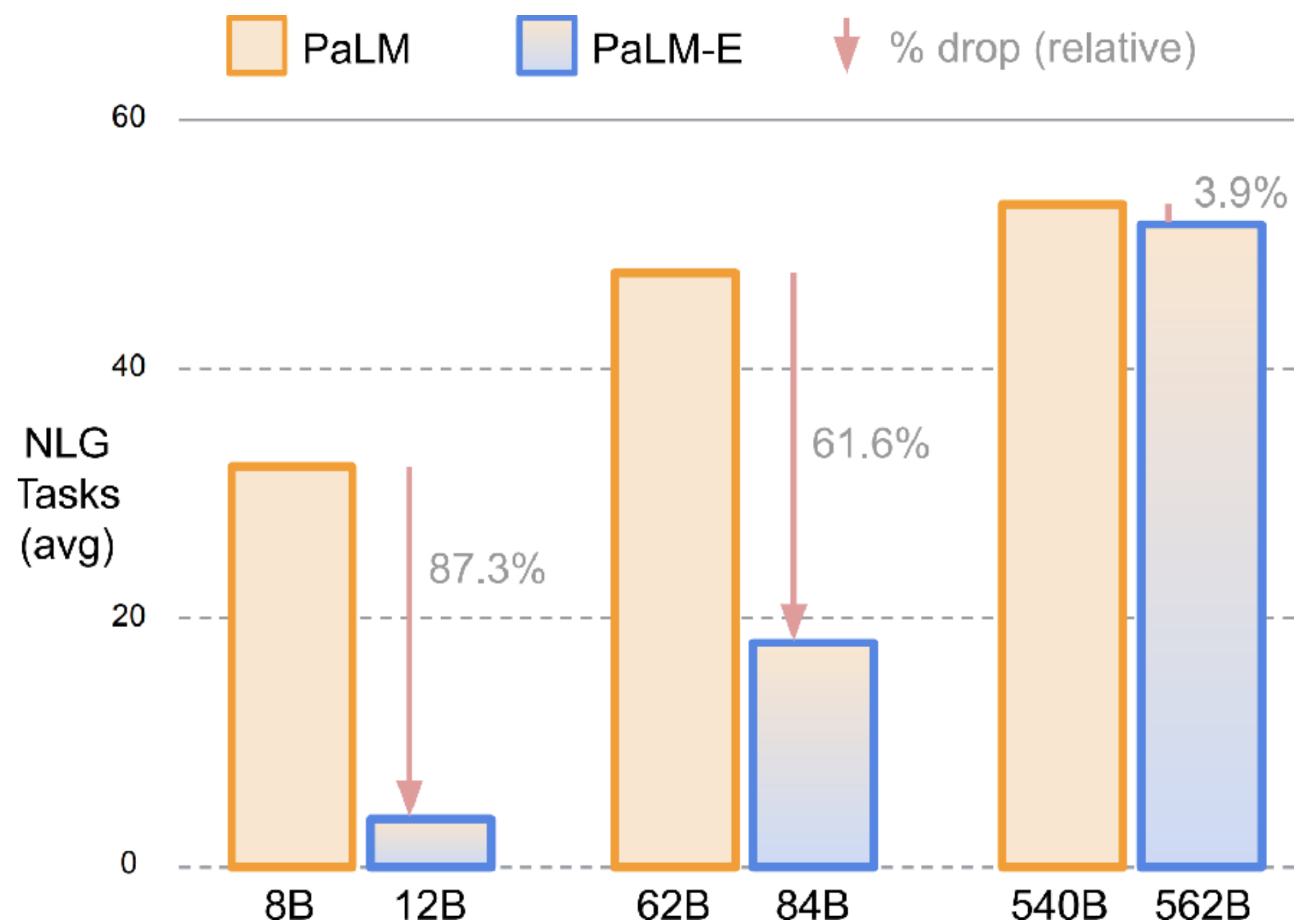
Experiments and Results

General Vision-Language Tasks

Model	VQAv2		OK-VQA	COCO
	test-dev	test-std	val	Karpathy test
<i>Generalist (one model)</i>				
PaLM-E-12B	76.2	-	55.5	135.0
PaLM-E-562B	80.0	-	66.1	138.7
<i>Task-specific finetuned models</i>				
Flamingo (Alayrac et al., 2022)	82.0	82.1	57.8 [†]	138.1
PaLI (Chen et al., 2022)	84.3	84.3	64.5	149.1
PaLM-E-12B	77.7	77.9	60.1	136.0
PaLM-E-66B	-	-	62.9	-
PaLM-E-84B	80.5	-	63.3	138.0
<i>Generalist (one model), with frozen LLM</i>				
(Tsimpoukelli et al., 2021)	48.4	-	-	-
PaLM-E-12B frozen	70.3	-	51.5	128.0

Table 5: Results on general visual-language tasks. For the generalist models, they are the same checkpoint across the different evaluations, while task-specific finetuned models use different-finetuned models for the different tasks. COCO uses Karpathy splits. [†] is 32-shot on OK-VQA (not finetuned).

Language catastrophic forgetting reduced with scale



Strengths and Weaknesses of PaLM-E

Strengths:

- Injects web-scale knowledge for diverse embodiments and tasks.
- Integrates real-world continuous sensor modalities into an LLM.
- Shows strong generalization and transfer capabilities.

Weaknesses:

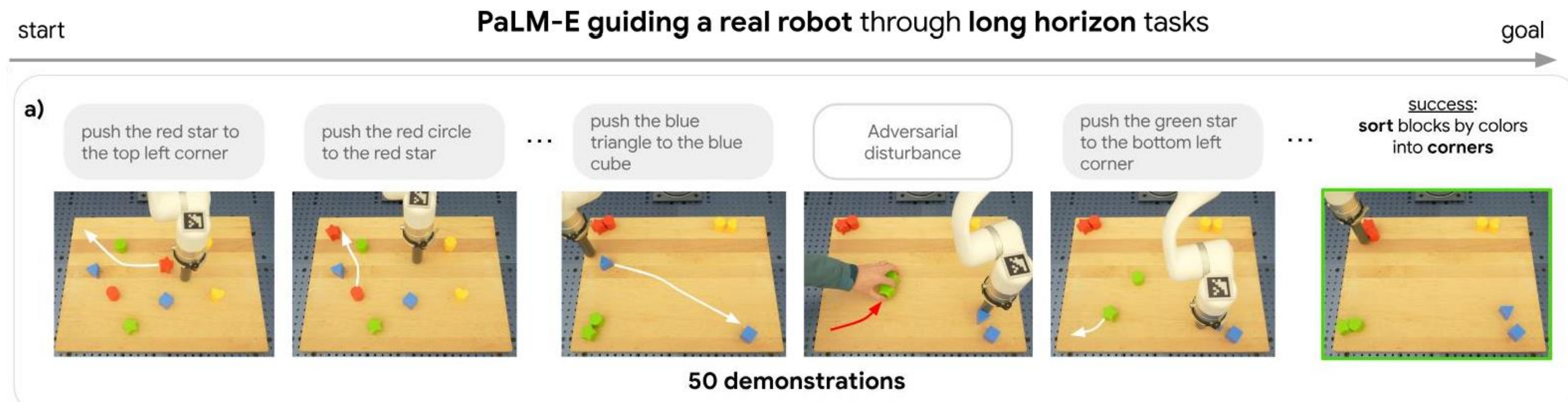
- Performance is bottlenecked by low-level control (RT-1 model).
- Bias in LLMs used will propagate to the robotics tasks as well.
- Concatenating visual and linguistic features and applying cross-attention might fail to align the distinct statistical properties of pixel level and word-level representations.

PaLM-E: Pathways Language Model - Embodied

- The name of the model implies this is an embodied agent, however, is this actually the case or is it just good clickbaiting strategy?
- Agency: Learning from feedback and selecting outputs so as to pursue goals.
- Embodiment: Modelling input-output contingencies, including systematic effects, and using this model in perception or control.

Embodiment: Agent must model how its outputs affect the environment to distinguish itself from the environment in perception or to facilitate motor control.

- PaLM-E is not trained end-to-end, low-level actions are performed by RL-1.
- It just receives the goal + latest image and predicts the next set of actions, forgetting prior plans entirely, no memory of past actions.
- It's observing differences between images not understanding causation.



Agency: Learning from feedback and selecting outputs so as to pursue goals.

Both of the main components of the system are trained to imitate human behaviours:

- PaLM-E is trained to predict the next token in human-generated strings.
- The policy unit, RL-1, is trained to imitate human visuomotor control.
- PaLM-E is an autoregressive model, it has no feedback loop.
- It does not learn to pursue goals from feedback about success or failure.
- It predicts a new action conditioned on the new image, NOT a revision of its earlier plan.

RT-2

- Details:
 - Use PaLM-E VLM backbone
 - Co-fine-tuning it on robotic data and VQA data
 - Input: (observation image, task description)
 - Output: action tokens (256)
- For PaLM-E, we need to overwrite 256 least used tokens in the vocabulary

Internet-Scale VQA + Robot Action Data



Q: What is happening in the image?

A: 311 423 170 55 244

A grey donkey walks down the street.

Q: Que puis-je faire avec ces objets?

A: 3455 1144 189 25673

Faire cuire un gâteau.



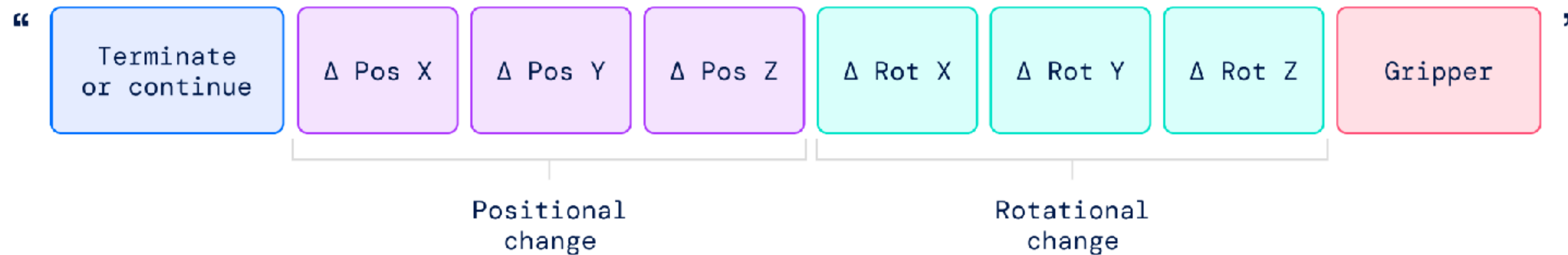
Q: What should the robot do to **<task>**?

A: 132 114 128 5 25 156

Δ Translation = [0.1, -0.2, 0]

Δ Rotation = [10°, 25°, -7°]

Representing Actions in VLMs



- **Robot actions:**

- Moving the robot arm and gripper
- Discretized into 256 bins

- **Actions in VLMs**

- Convert to a string of numbers
- Example: “1 127 115 218 101 56 90 255”
- Alternatives:
 - *Float numbers* - more tokens needed
 - *Human language (left, right etc.)* - can't be directly executed on a robot

→ **Vision-Language-Action (VLA) model!**



RT-2

Internet-Scale VQA + Robot Action Data



Q: What is happening in the image?

A: 311 423 170 55 244

A grey donkey walks down the street.

Q: Que puis-je faire avec ces objets?

A: 3455 1144 189 25673

Faire cuire un gâteau.



Q: What should the robot do to **<task>**?

A: 132 114 128 5 25 156

$\Delta T = [0.1, -0.2, 0]$
 $\Delta R = [10^\circ, 25^\circ, -7^\circ]$

Vision-Language-Action Models for Robot Control

Q: What should the robot do to **<task>**? A: ...



RT-2

ViT

Large Language Model

A: 132 114 128 5 25 156

De-Tokenize

$\Delta T = [0.1, -0.2, 0]$
 $\Delta R = [10^\circ, 25^\circ, -7^\circ]$

Robot Action

Co-Fine-Tune

Deploy

Closed-Loop Robot Control



Put the strawberry into the correct bowl



Pick the nearly falling bag

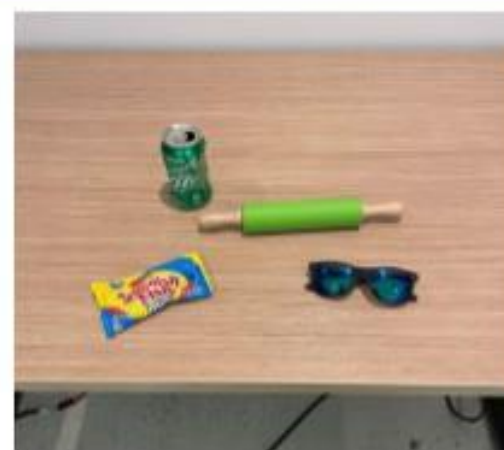


Pick object that is different

Results: Quantitative evals



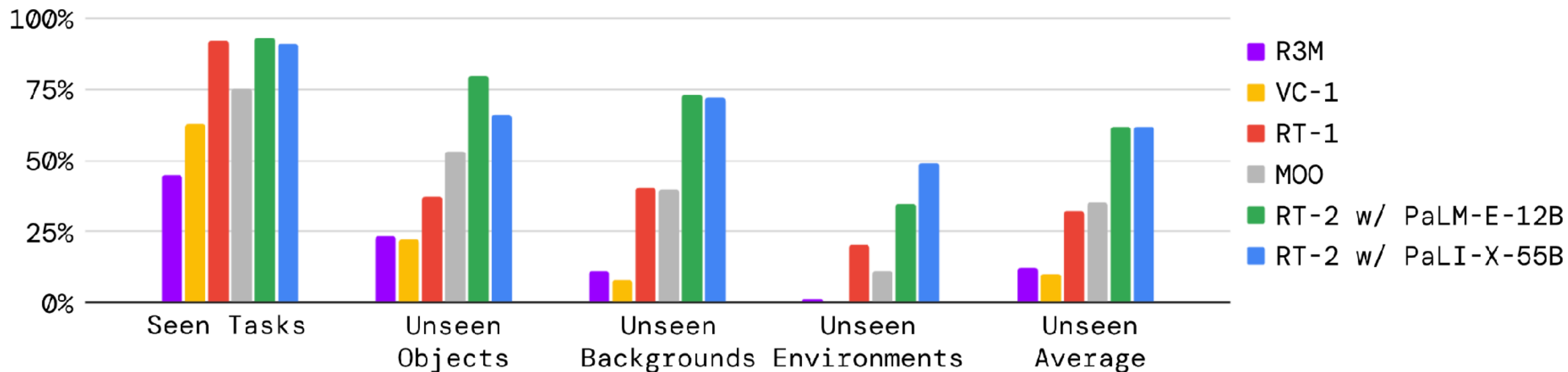
(a) Unseen Objects



(b) Unseen Backgrounds



(c) Unseen Environments



RT-2

- It understand human instructions



*"move coke can to
Taylor Swift"*



User

I am sleepy, bring
me a drink to
help.

Plan: Pick redbull
can



Results: Chain-of-Thought with RT-2-PaLM-E

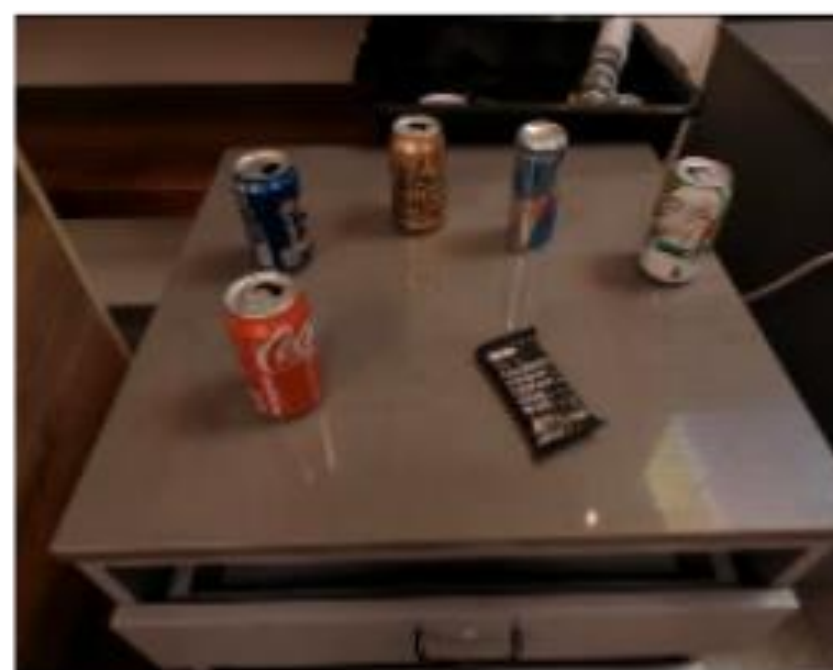
Prompt:
Given Instruction:
Bring me a drink.
Prediction:
Plan: pick 7up can.
Action: 1 143 129 123 145
114 115 127



Prompt:
Given Instruction:
Move all the objects
together.
Prediction:
Plan: move green can near
green rice chip bag.
Action: 1 128 126 127 135
123 119 127



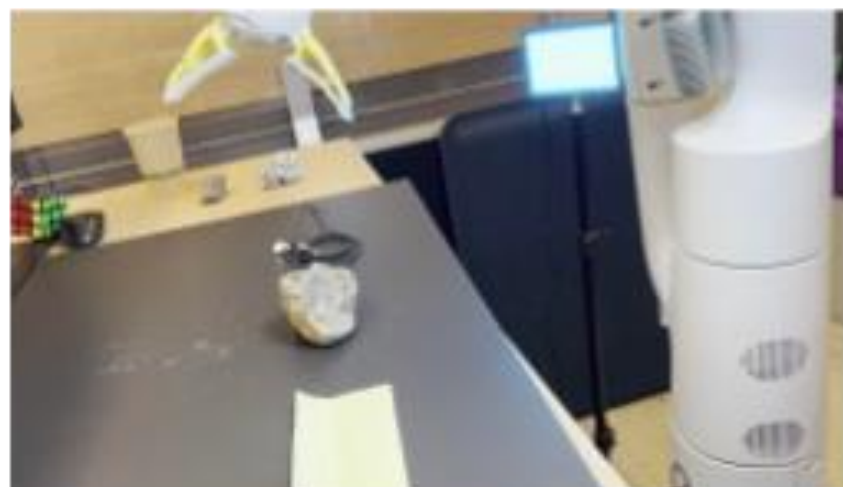
Prompt:
Given Instruction:
Pick the object that is
different from all other
objects
Prediction:
Plan: pick rxbar
chocolate. Action: 1 128
129 125 131 125 128 127



Prompt:
Given Instruction:
Move the green objects
together.
Prediction:
Plan: move green can near
green rice chip bag.
Action: 1 130 129 121 131
127 128 127



Prompt:
Given I need to
hammer a nail, what
object from the scene
might be useful?
Prediction:
Rocks. Action: 1 129 138
122 132 135 106 127



RT-2: Pros and Cons

- Pros:
 - No need for RT-1 intermediary.
 - Shows good scalability and transfer of knowledge across domains.
- Cons:
 - Slow to run, and difficult to deploy into new scenes and embodiments, needs fine-tuning.
 - It is still relying on a VLM as its backbone, which was not trained to output robotic actions and is therefore not truly grounded.
 - Concatenating visual and linguistic features and applying cross-attention might fail to align the distinct statistical properties of pixel level and word-level representations.

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RT-1

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RT-2

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Thank you for listening!!!

Any questions?

